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Numismatics International Bulletin

Volume 52

November / December 2017

Numbers 11 / 12

Letter from the Editor	159
Book News and Reviews.....	195
Robert Ronus	
<i>A King Sigismund III of Poland Trojak with the Auroch of Moldavia.....</i>	<i>160</i>
Numismatica Varesi sas	
<i>Lucrezia de Medici</i>	<i>163</i>
Paul Oostervink	
<i>The Failed Attack on Amsterdam, and The Death of Prince William II – 1650</i>	
<i>“CRIMINE AB UNO DISCE OMNIES” and “MAGNIS EXCIDIT AUSIS”</i>	<i>164</i>
Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC	
<i>Cut Gold “Tejuelo” Piece with Crowned-CA Tax Stamp for Charles I of Spain .</i>	<i>171</i>
Herman Blanton	
<i>Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia Commemorative Medal, 1815, King Francis I... </i>	<i>172</i>
Xavier Albán R.	
<i>An Improbable Overdate, Ecuador 2 Reales 1834/5</i>	<i>173</i>
Morton & Eden Ltd.	
<i>Holey Dollar, New South Wales</i>	<i>181</i>
Numismatica Ars Classica, Zurich	
<i>A Selection of Roman Aurei.....</i>	<i>182</i>
<i>Roman Aureus of Licinius</i>	<i>192</i>
Heritage Rare Coins	
<i>Ferdinand VII Military Entry Token for Puerto Rico</i>	<i>191</i>
Dix Noonan Webb	
<i>Germanicus’s Triumphal Entry in the Year 17</i>	<i>194</i>

In this issue your NI Bulletin offers a wide selection of articles, from brief to in-depth, ranging on topics from ancients to modern. First time contributor Xavier Alban provides an analysis on a particular 2 reales of Ecuador. Paul Oostervink writes on another Dutch medal with beautiful photos of pertinent specimens. Robert Ronus explores aspects of the silver three-gros of Sigismund III, certainly a familiar coin type, but his article addresses related copies. The articles from Numismatica Ars Classica show outstanding gold aurei of the Roman Empire, a visual treat just to see the pictures, let alone the stories behind them. Rounding out this issue are many good short articles.

It’s been awhile since we had a quiz so here is one. Publius Quinctilius Varus was both a Roman general and governor. While governor of Syria he suppressed a revolt in Judea and had some 2000 rebels crucified (Josephus: *The Antiquities of the Jews* 17:10:10). Later, Varus led the Roman armies against German tribes east of the Rhine where he was ambushed by German warriors led by Arminius (now Germanized to Hermann) at the Battle of Teutoburg Forest. Which of the articles in this issue is related to the Battle of Teutoburg Forest?

Herman Blanton

A King Sigismund III of Poland Trojak with the Auroch of Moldavia

Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

Polish coin collectors are very familiar with the very common Trojaks or 3 gros. Figure 1 is a 1596 issue of King Sigismund III struck in Lublin.



Figure 1

Obv.: **SIG • 3 • D • G • REX • POL • M • D • L •**. Crowned bust r. Rev.: **III** / eagle (Poland) Vasa sheaf in shield Lithuanian knight / **GROS • ARG • TRIP • REG • POLONIAE** / shield with lion rampant dividing **I** and **F** (=Jan Firlej Jr., crown treasurer, 1590-1609) and **9** and **6** on their side (=1596) and hook over lion (Lewart arms of Jan Firlej Jr.) 20.5 mm. 2.36 g. Gum. 1052. Iger V.96.2. Kopicki 1049 (R5). Hut.-Czap. 979.

For specialists, there are a variety of mint marks to collect.

The Polish trojak became widely popular and copies were struck by Transylvanian rulers to the south, by the doges of Ragusa (Dubrovnik) and Joachim III of Brandenburg, all closely following the design of the Polish coins. There is even one not quite so close, a copy by the notorious coin copier, Siro of Austria, count of Corregio in Italy. There were also many forgeries.

Figure 2 is a 1597 3 gros struck by Sigismund Bathori, Prince of Transylvania, in Nagybanja.



Figure 2

Obv.: **SIG • D • G • TRAN • MOL** (davia) • **WAL** (lachie) • **S • R • I** (of the holy Roman Empire) • **P** (rince) •. Bust with Spanish collar r. Rev.: ❀ **I • I • I** ❀ / **1 • 5 •** crowned Bathori arms (3 tusks left) **9 • 7 •** / **GRO : ARG : / TRIP ❀ PRIN : / TRANSYL : / VANIAE •** / ❀ •. 22.5 mm. 2.16 g. esch 236. Huszar 150. MBR 580. Beszeda BZS-3G-06.

On this coin Bathori also claimed the title of Prince of Moldavia and Wallachia (modern day Romania). He had become heavily involved in the Moldavian Magnate Wars, which lasted from 1593 to 1617. Moldavia found itself in the middle of the conflicts between its powerful neighbors, Transylvania, the Habsburgs, Poland and the Ottoman Empire. In 1595 Bathori put Stefan Razvan on the Moldavian throne as Voivod (prince or master).

Razvan struck his own Polish-style 3 gros with the Moldavian auroch's head as shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3

Obv.: **STEPH • BOIBOD** (voivod) + **MOL • DOB** Crowned bust r. Rev.: Auroch's head in circle between 2 roses over **GROS • ARG • T / RIP • REG • MO / OLDABIA** • (3 silver gros of kingdom of Moldavia) over + **1595 •** and 2 roses divided by shield

with Przegonia arms of Christian cross & 2 crescents (= Jan Dilski, Polish mm, 1581-90). Billon. 20 mm. 2.25 g. MBR 810a. Nechitaylo 209 (R8).

This coin was probably struck in Suceava, the seat of Razvan's government but he still copied the Polish mintmark.

This coin is extremely rare because Stefan Razvan did not last long, only ruling from April 24 to August 25, 1595. Poland sent in an army which defeated Stefan's forces while the Transylvanians retreated home. Poland then made Ieremia Movila voivod as their vassal. Stefan invaded again to try to get his throne back but was again defeated by the Polish forces. Movila had Stefan impaled (a form of execution long popular in Romania, particularly under Vlad the Impaler, Prince of Wallachia (1431-1476/77), who was turned into Dracula in fiction).

In 1597 Movila concluded a treaty with King Sigismund III giving him the right to strike coins to the Polish standard (the same weight, purity and value), which would be accepted in Poland. He struck these so-called Moldavian-Polish coins between 1597 and 1600 (even though some have other dates on them) with the busts and titles of Sigismund III and his predecessor Stefan Bathori but with the Moldavian auroch replacing the Polish arms; an example shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4

Obv.: **SIG • III • DG REX • POLONI**. Crowned bust r. of King Sigismund III of Poland. Rev.: Auroch's head in circle between 2 roses and 2 four-leaf clovers over **GR OS / ARG TRIP / REG PO** (3 silver gros of kingdom of Poland), below x flower x. Mint: Suceava. Billon. 20 mm. 1.89 g. MBR 819v. Nechitaylo 214 (R8).

The 1597 treaty was never ratified by the Polish Sejm or Parliament and the Poles seem to regard these Moldavian-Polish coins as at best copies, if not forgeries.

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(Polskie Towarzystwo Numizmatyczne Zarząd Główny, Warsaw 1995).
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(Hermannstadt 1901).
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Lucrezia de Medici
Numismatica Varesi sas



Varesi & Aurora Auction 10, 18 November 2017, lot 71

Lucrezia de Medici (1545-1561) - Medal in honor of the daughter of Cosimo I, Opus Domenico Poggini, Ag, 49 mm, 43 g, RRR, (mount) removed otherwise BB + (very fine +).

[Obv. Bust right with legend around FORMA ET MVNDITIIS NITENS (Shining in appearance and elegance). Rev.: Ship near harbor, with wind blowing; star above. Legend around TE DVCE PERVENIAM (With you as my guide I will arrive).]

**The Failed Attack on Amsterdam
and The Death of Prince William II – 1650**
“CRIMINE AB UNO DISCE OMNIES” and “MAGNIS EXCIDIT AUSIS”
Paul Oostervink, NI #2787

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Translated from the German by Robert Ronus, NI #LM139

[The original Dutch version of this article, “*De mislukte aanval op Amsterdam en het overlijden van Prins Willem II – 1650*” was published in *Muntkoerier*, nr. 6, 2017, Year 46, pp. 4-6.]

Power in the Netherlands after they gained independence from Spain in 1648 was divided between the governing councils of the Seven Provinces, the councils of the major cities and the Stadtholder, William II of Orange. The title of Stadtholder (literally “steward” but usually translated in English as “Governor”) went back to feudal times when great lords would appoint a stadtholder to administer one or more of their fiefs in their place. The independent Dutch provinces took over the institution and in 1572 Holland appointed William the Silent (William I of Orange), who would be the leader of the Dutch Revolt, as Stadtholder. His reputation was such that almost all subsequent Stadtholders were from the Orange family and most were appointed Stadtholder by several provinces at the same time. The Stadtholder of Holland and Zeeland was normally also appointed Captain-General of the confederate army and Admiral-General of the fleet. In theory the Stadtholder was the highest executive officer under the power of the States (council) of each province. However, he had the power to appoint lower officials and sometimes claimed the right to “affirm” the appointment of council members or choose mayors from a shortlist of candidates. His real powers were thus much greater than his legal powers, especially during the Eighty Years’ War against Spain when Maurice of Orange ruled as a military dictator after 1618. Tensions between the Stadtholder and the Councils steadily increased.

A conflict began two years after the peace of Münster when Holland began to disband its troops in 1650. Now that there was peace these troops were no longer needed. The stadtholder, William II, as Commander-in-Chief, was fiercely against it because it thwarted his war policy and he decided to take action. To gain leverage, he had some of the most important Dutch Regents arrested and imprisoned in Loevesteyn Castle.

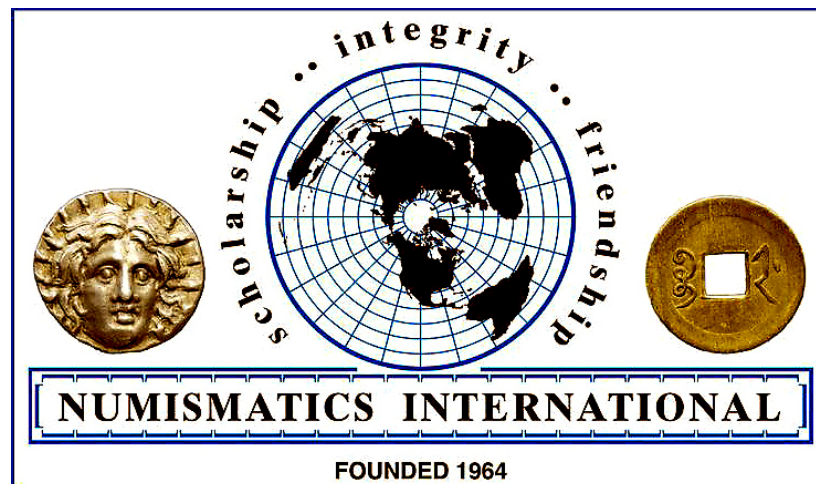




Figure 1

The Siege of Amsterdam by William II – 1650¹

Silver: weight 62.34 g, diameter 65 mm

Medallist: unknown

Technique: cast plaque, engraved

Photo: Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00566.

Reference: van Loon II, p. 345.

Figure 1:

Obverse: City image and view of the siege of Amsterdam, above hand holding heart in clouds. Legend: **Ons hert en handt - Is voor het landt** (Our heart and hand - is for the country). Reverse: Engraving: procession on the way to Loevesteijn castle Legend: **Loevesteijn (in field) Int gulde Vreede Jaer Julius 3 mael 10 heeft men Prinsen Volk Voor Amsterdam gesien, berent met Ruijters en Soldaten, in Augustij 4 wederom verlaten** (around). (Loevesteijn [in field] On May 10 in the third year of the golden peace by the Julian calendar the Prince's men, consisting of cavalry and soldiers, were seen in Amsterdam, leaving again on August 4 [around].)

Then on the evening of July 29, 1650 he sent his cousin William Frederick, who was Stadtholder (governor) of Friesland, from The Hague to Amsterdam. It was intended that in the early morning of July 30, 1650 approximately 12,000 soldiers would conquer Amsterdam by surprise without violence. But the troops got lost on the Gooi heath and the Amsterdam City Council was warned and had the city gates closed and called the militia to arms. Thereupon William's troops laid siege to the city. After negotiations, the siege was ended and the dissolution of the troops suspended. Finally, the untimely death of William II on November 6, 1650 put an end to the disagreement. After the death of the stadtholder the provinces of Holland, Zeeland, Utrecht, Gelderland and Overijssel decided not to appoint a stadtholder anymore.



Figure 2
William II of Orange-Nassau (1626-1650)²



Figure 3
William Frederick of Nassau-Dietz (1613-1664)³

However, what should have been the seizure of power in a state ended up as an operetta. The cowardly and failed attack on Amsterdam became the reason for producing many medals in which concepts such as loyalty to the country and valor are predominant. But one medal from that year produced by Sebastian Dadler (1586-1657) has a completely different intention and mocks this attack on Amsterdam; this is underlined in a hate poem of Joost van den Vondel (1587-1679), the most prominent poet and playwright of the Dutch Golden Age.



Figure 4

The failed attack on Amsterdam – July 30, 1650⁴

Gold: weight 118.89 g, diameter 68.9 mm

Medallist: Sebastian Dadler (1586-1657)

Technique: struck

Photo: Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00579.

Reference: v. Loon II, p. 353.

Figure 4

Obverse: At the top, the crowned coat of arms of Amsterdam, supported by two lions. Rising sun. In the foreground a jumping horse (symbolizing the Trojan horse). In the background the city of Amsterdam. Legend: **CRIMINE AB UNO DISCE OMNEIS • MDCLXXX IULII**⁵ (From one crime, learn about all • 1650 • 30 July). In exergue: **QUIA BELLA VETABAT** (Because she [Amsterdam] had forbidden wars).



Figure 5
The death of stadtholder William II – November 6, 1650
Photo: Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00579

Figure 5

Reverse: At top the crowned coat of arms of The Hague. In the clouds a man (Zeus) with lightning bolts in his left and right hand. Another man (Phaëton) in the clouds is falling out of his chariot. Below a funeral procession at the Buitenhof (outer court adjacent to the *Binnenhof*) in The Hague. Legend: **MAGNIS EXCIDIT AUSIS⁶ • MDCL • VI NOVEMBRIS** (He perished in great enterprises on November 6, 1650).

On the reverse of the medal the fall of stadtholder William II is compared to the fall of Phaëton, the son of the Sun God. For one day he was allowed to drive the solar chariot. However, when he could not hold the horses and a disaster threatened, Zeus killed him with his bolts of lightning.

Under the portrayal of Phaëton is the funeral procession of William II, represented at the time of its leaving the Stadhouders Hof (today the *Binnenhof* which houses parliament and other government offices) in The Hague.

The thrust of the Latin words (**MAGNIS EXCIDIT AUSIS MDCL • VI NOVEMBRIS**) is that William II owed his fall to his overconfident plans just like Phaëton.

In Figure 6 we return to the obverse of this medallion, Figure 4, from medallist Sebastian Dadler, who came from Danzig. It shows on the obverse a galloping horse, with armed men hiding under an Orange saddle decorated with symbols, on which there is an open book with on the left the word **U / NI / O**, on the right the word **RE / LI / GIO** (= *unionem religionemque*, for union and religion); at the bottom of the saddle **SIMILANT**, i.e., they dissemble, or more freely translated: “it is hypocrisy.”



Figure 6



Figure 7

The failed attack on Amsterdam – July 30, 1650 and the death of stadtholder William II – November 6, 1650⁷

Silver: weight 84.78 g, diameter 70.1 mm

Medallist: Sebastian Dadler (1586-1657)

Technique: struck

Photo: Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00580.

Reference: v. Loon II, p. 353.



Figure 8

Wooden medal box with inside the critical poem “Robbery and Waste”

Dadler’s satirical medal came to the market almost simultaneously with the interment of stadtholder William II. Opponents of the stadtholder could buy this medal. The medal was offered in a turned wooden medal box.

On the inside of the medal box there was an “insert” of the satirical poem *Op den Gedenkpenning van den Overval en Afval* (On the Commemorative Medal of the Robbery and Waste) by Joost van den Vondel relating to the designs on the obverse and reverse of Dadler’s medal. It was known that Vondel (the most prominent poet and playwright of the Dutch Golden Age) was definitely not in favor with the Orange-Stadholder. Again, nothing good ever came between the city and the prince. William died from smallpox three months later, on November 6, 1650. It was not for nothing that it would be 22 years after William’s death before another Stadholder from the house of Orange-Nassau would come to power in the Republic.

On November 16, 1650 the son of William II, the later William III (1650-1702), stadtholder of the Republic and King of England, was born.

A persistent anecdote has it that on the Sunday afterwards a note was found in a pouch in an Amsterdam church with the following text:

*The Prince is dead
My gift increased
No more joyful news
In eighty years.*

Reference:

Jan Pelsdonk, Michiel Plomp (editors) with Paul Beliën and Dirk Jan Biemond (authors). *Hulde!; penningkunst in de Gouden Eeuw*. Haarlem: Teylers Museum, 2012, pp. 42-43.

¹ Photo with permission of the Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00566.

² Gerard van Honthorst (*workshop of*) (1592-1656), portrait of Willem II (1626-1650). Painting: oil on canvas (h. 110.5 cm (43.5 inches) x w. 86 cm (33.9 inches). Palace Het Loo, Apeldoorn, on loan from the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, Amsterdam. Inv. nr. SK-A-177.

³ Pieter Nason (1612-1688/90), portrait of Willem Frederick (1613-1664), count of Nassau, stadtholder of Friesland. Painting: oil on canvas (h. 121 cm x w. 93.6 cm).

Mauritshuis Museum, Den Haag. Inv. nr. 124. Photo with permission of the Mauritshuis Museum, Den Haag.

⁴ Photo with permission of the Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00579.

⁵ Quote from Virgil's *Aeneid* II, lines 65-66 (*Ab uno disce omnes*, from one learn all)

⁶ Quote from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* II, line 328

⁷ Photo with permission of the Teylers Museum, Haarlem. TMNK 00580.



**Cut Gold “Tejuelo” Piece with Crowned-CA Tax Stamp
for Charles I of Spain**

Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC, NI #2704



Cut gold “tejuelo” piece with crowned-CA tax stamp for Charles I of Spain, 42.08 grams, from a 1500s wreck off the northern coast of South America. 1” x 1/2” x 1/2”. Rectangular cross-section cut of a flat “finger” bar, very important for showing the entire tax stamp, whose design of a crowned CA above a two-branch pomegranate had not been seen prior to two other specimens in our Auction #13 and almost certainly refers to manufacture in Colombia (New Granada), the two perpendicular cuts very neat (not broken), with much smaller cut in one corner as well, possibly to regulate the piece down to exactly 12 escudos (one and a half onzas, a coin-like size in any case), with traces of dark encrustation around details. From an unidentified 1500s wreck off the northern coast of South America, with photo-certificate, and pedigreed to our Auction #14 (lot #297).



**Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia
Commemorative Medal, 1815, King Francis I
Herman Blanton, NI #LM115**

The Kingdom of Lombardy–Venetia was created in 1815 by the Congress of Vienna at the end of the Napoleonic Wars. This kingdom would last until 1866 when the Kingdom of Italy received the territory as an outcome of the Austro-Prussian War. The Kingdom of Lombardy-Venetia was ruled by the Austrian House of Habsburg-Lorraine. The Austrian emperors ruled as kings: Francis I (1815-1835), Ferdinand I (1835-1848) and Franz Joseph I (1848-1866). The medal below commemorates the reception of Francis I by the city of Milan.



Francis I of Austria, bronze medal 42.8 mm, (approx. 37 g)

Obverse: Laurette bust of Emperor Francis I of Austria with arm raised in salute to personified city of Milan. Legend “FRANCISCO I. AVSTRIACO PIO AVG FELICI” and beneath bust “VASSALO F.” Reverse: Emperor wearing Laurette on his head riding horseback before a standing, crowned allegorical-figure of the city of Milan with legend “ADVENTV AVGVSTI FAVSTISSIMO” and in exergue “ORDO ET POPVLVS MEDIOL. DIE XXXI. DECEMBRIS MDCCCXV”. On plane of the exergue “L. MANFREDI F.”

Engravers Geralmo Vassalo and Luigi Manfredi; the “F” (FECIT) for made it.

The medal is listed in various catalogs including the following I found on internet.

Erbstein, Julius and Albert Erbstein (editors). *Die Ritter-von-Schulthess-Rechberg'sche Münz- und Medaillen-Sammlung: als Anhang zum Thaler-Cabinet des verstorbenen Herrn K. G. Ritter von Schulthess-Rechberg*. Dresden: published by the editors, 1868. Medal listed p. 91, number 853.

https://books.google.com/books/about/Die_Ritter_von_Schulthess_Rechberg_sche.html?id=HJ5MAAAcAAJ

Image Heritage Auctions Weekly World and Ancient Coins 231317 lot 64128 (part), courtesy of Heritage Auctions (HA.com).

NI

An Improbable Overdate, Ecuador 2 Reales 1834/5

Xavier Albán R.

Translated by Michael J. Anderson

While Ecuadorian numismatic history is short, due to its having begun its own coinage only in 1833, it does have an extraordinary variety of specimens that makes it very rich and interesting for collectors.

It is common to find within a single year some very apparent differences which make individual coins distinct, varieties such as subtle changes in the design of the shield, errors in the legend such as inverted or altered letters, crude minting, overstrikes, minting errors, etc.

Among the varieties of overstruck coins there exists a huge range of pieces with overstruck dates which enriches our coinage. We may note that with very few exceptions most of the coins with overstruck dates are found on 1/2, 1 and 2 *décimo* pieces from 1891 to 1912 (the *décimo* is a tenth). It is very puzzling that most of these coins appear only in these denominations, and even more puzzling that almost all of them relate solely to the mint of Lima. The overstruck dates do not occur in the mints of Birmingham or Philadelphia. In the case of the mint of Santiago de Chile, Krause World Coins records an overdate only on the one-*décimo* coin 1889/1789, which, since it relates to an 8 over 7 in the hundreds of the date, is clearly dealing with the correction of a date error. The overdated piece of Santiago de Chile is very scarce, and the NGC Census reports the existence of only one piece.



Figure 1

The only Santiago de Chile *décimo* reported in the NGC Census

It is worth mentioning that there exists no record of why these overdates occurred in the Lima Mint, but it had been standard practice on Peruvian coins since the earliest days of the Republic. It is believed that the motive was to optimize the cost of production of the dies in that the operating cost was less if larger quantities of dies were produced—so that the excess could be used in subsequent years—for which it was necessary only to correct the digits of the date with the year in which Ecuador requested a new supply of coinage. This theory is a consensus of various experienced collectors, because as already mentioned there exists no known record which clarifies this mystery, which was very common in the Lima mint, and there is no other logical explanation which allows a second hypothesis.

In this way, by checking the catalogs, we find the following Ecuadorian coins where the dates were overstruck for use in subsequent years:

- 2 décimos 1889 TF Lima was overstruck for the years: 1892/89, 1893/89, 1894/89 and 1895/89
- 1 décimo 1894 TF Lima was overstruck for the year 1899/4
- 1/2 décimo 1893 TF Lima was overstruck for the year 1894/3
- 1/2 décimo 1897 TF Lima was overstruck for the year 1899/7
- 1/2 décimo 1902 JF Lima was overstruck for the year 1905/2 (There is no record of this in the NGC census or PCGS)

There also exist some 1/2 décimo coins minted in Lima with overstruck dates which show the practice of preparing dies with the last one or two figures of the date left blank, but which still needed to be overstruck because of the change of decade or century, such as:

- 1/2 décimo JF Lima 1899/87
- 1/2 décimo JF Lima 1902/802 and 1902/892 (as yet there is no record of 1902/892 in the NGC census and PCGS)
- 1/2 décimo JF Lima 1905/805

This practice of overstriking the decade and century on dies where the final digit or digits were left blank was common practice in the Lima mint as evidenced by the existence in the Peruvian series of 1/2 *dinero* 1900/890, 1901/801, 1901/891, 1902/802, 1902/892, 1903/803, 1903/893, 1904/894, 1905/805, 1 *dinero* 1900/890, 1902/892, 1903/893, sol 1890/80, 1891/81, 1892/82 and many more (the *dinero* is a tenth).

Michael Anderson wrote on the Lima varieties: “Varieties in the Lima Mint Coins of Ecuador 1889-1915” in *Seaby’s Coin & Medal Bulletin* October 1971.



Figure 2

**Scarce Ecuador 1/2 décimo 1899/87 JF with overdate in decade.
Only one piece is recorded in the NGC census**

We should mention that there is no record in the NGC and PCGS censuses of certain coins such as the 1/2 décimos 1902/892 and 1905/2, so there is no confirmation of the existence of these pieces, even though both coins are reported in the Krause World Coins catalog.

In addition to the overdated decimal coins, there exist other pieces known with the same type of error corresponding to the pre-decimal coinage, among which the following are recorded:

SILVER

2 Reales 1848/7 GJ
1/2 Real 1833 overstruck M over 1/2
1/4 Real 1843/2...Very rare

GOLD

8 Escudos 1849/7 GJ...Very rare
8 Escudos 1852/0 GJ
8 Escudos 1855/2 GJ

All six of the above listed pre-decimal overstruck pieces are confirmed to exist. NGC also mentions the existence of an overstruck 2 reales 1839/8 MV, but since it is not included in the NGC census we are unable to confirm its existence; reference NGC World Coins Price List 2 Reales 1839 at the following link.

<https://www.ngccoin.com/price-guide/world/search/1/?keywords=ECUADOR%7c%7c1839%7c%7c2+Reales%7cECUADOR++1839+2+Reales>

The mystery of the 2 reales 1834/5 GJ.

What should be borne in mind is that all the coins with overdates have one thing in common, which is that the overstruck date is normally over a date earlier than that of the overstriking. However this rule has an exception.



Figure 3
2 reales 1834/5 GJ

Dale Seppa's compendium *ECUADORIAN COINS – An Annotated Checklist* 2016 edition, p. 18 reports the existence of a 2 reales coin with overstruck date 1834/5 GJ, a coin with an unusual overstriking in that the overstriking is on a future date compared to the overstriking rather than an earlier date as is normal.



Figure 4
1834/5 coin in which traces of the number 5 can clearly be seen under the 4

In this compendium Seppa mentions that the coin is certified by NGC as VF DETAILS with Hairlines, the same as was auctioned by Daniel Frank Sedwick, LLC in May 2013

at a price in excess of US\$800. The auction catalog description mentioned that this piece is the only one known so far. The auction can be seen at the link:

http://auction.sedwickcoins.com/Quito-Ecuador-2-reales-1834-5GJ-unique-overdate-no-dot-after-CONSTITUCION-encapsulated-NGC-VF_i15947128

Seppa also mentioned in his compendium that he did not have the opportunity to find the records and the verification code assigned by NGC, to be able to study this unusual overdate and confirm it, but it is clear that it concerns a 2 reales of 1835 GJ overstruck with a 4. This we can easily confirm because the only difference which exists between the 2 reales coins of 1834 and those of 1835 is the period at the end of the word CONSTITUCION (all the 1834 coins have a period at the end of the said word, while the 1835 coins do not have the period). The overstruck coin from the Sedwick auction (1834/5) does not have the period, as is indicated in the description from the Sedwick auction, which clearly confirms that it is a coin from a die of 1835 overstruck with a 4.



Figure 5 (upper) Figure 6 (lower)

2 Reales coins of 1834 and 1835 where can be seen the principal feature which distinguishes both coinages, the PERIOD at the end of the word CONSTITUCION, which appears only on the 1834 coinage.

The coin from the Sedwick auction passed through the hands of several Ecuadorian collectors until I acquired it in March 2017, together with the white holder for the slab and the NGC certification label with which it had been auctioned in 2013, since the coin had been removed from its container. The verification code on this certification was 2782907-001.

In April 2017 I sent this coin to NGC again, so that it could be reviewed by the certification experts for the second time. The result obtained was exactly the same as the previous certification: 2 reales 1834/5 GJ with the grade VF DETAILS, with the same defect of Hairlines. This new certification has the verification code 2812314-001.



Figure 7

NGC 2812314-001

NGC 2782907-001

Holder / Holder with coin encapsulated



Figure 8

**2 Reales 1834/5 GJ
NGC 2812314-001 (2017)**

**2 Reales 1834/5 GJ
NGC 2782907-001 (2013)**

Photographs of the NGC certifications (2017, 2013) of the same specimen

That is to say that four years after the first certification NGC again validated the same overdate of 4 over 5, with the same grade of condition and recording the defect of Hairlines, without being informed that it involved the same piece that had been certified in 2013. This we can easily confirm by comparing both NGC photographic records of 2013 and 2017, where can be seen even the same Hairlines below the letter R on the obverse (2 marks below the R).

This causes us to ask the following questions:

- How did this improbable overdate happen?
- Why was a die of 1835 corrected with a 4?

First, Dale Seppa was contacted so that he could review the overstrike, since he had already announced its existence but did not have photographs in 2013 for a more detailed examination. He succeeded in confirming that the overdate existed, and that in his opinion it was genuine and an authentic original mintage of the coin. Michael Anderson also checked this aspect, arriving at the same conclusion about the improbable overdate.

So, how do we explain what happened? We can only offer some hypotheses based on the research and conclusions reached by historians about the events of the period 1834 to 1836.

1. We must take into account that one of the engravers who prepared dies in the period of 1834 and 1835 was Mr. Eduardo Coronel, who, according to Melvin Hoyos in his book *La Moneda Ecuatoriana a través de los tiempos*, was dismissed as mint engraver for irresponsibility in his duties. His irresponsibility is not further detailed but we must wonder if this overdated coin was involved.
2. Melvin Hoyos also mentioned in his work that Mr. Eduardo Coronel was found with a die stolen from the mint. This, according to the unpublished “Numismatic History of Ecuador” of Carlos Iza Terán, occurred in March 1836, and production in this year was ordered to begin only on 14 June, according to what is said in Melvin Hoyos’ book, second edition, p. 110. All this allows us to make the following observations:
 - 2.1. It is impossible that the theft of the die related to one produced in 1836, since the minting of coins was ordered in June 1836 and Mr. Eduardo Coronel was found with the stolen die in March of that year.
 - 2.2. We can infer that the stolen die must have been of the year 1835 or earlier, which were those which existed before Mr. Coronel was found out, but it is very probable that he would have taken one of those most readily available at the time, which would have to be one of 1835, to be used in his criminal activity in 1835 and/or 1836 until being found out.
 - 2.3. According to Iza in his unpublished “Numismatic History of Ecuador” it is said that Mr. Coronel carried out his forgeries in the same mint where he was found with a stolen die in March 1836.
 - 2.4. In the early days of the Republic, forgers used to steal part of the silver from coins of good fineness, making fraudulent coinages of base fineness, and thus making a profit from the metal they obtained.

Considering these observations, we can develop certain hypotheses, such as the possibility that the stolen die was probably of the year 1835, and the date could have been altered by Mr. Coronel to that of the previous year (1834/5) with the objective of being able to incorporate his base pieces, produced in the same mint, very probably from 1835 to early 1836, trying to hide them among coins of a year of which there already existed a complete supply in circulation; for which it is necessary to remember that the 1835 mintage began in March and lasted until December, so that at the beginning not enough of the 1835 coinage could have existed to conceal the false coins. Another hypothesis could be that he did it to avoid the quality controls of coins minted in 1835, being dated as 1834 they would be exempt from control if the coinage was not part of the production current at the time. Or he could have changed the die simply so as not to have in his possession a die of a year currently in production. But any of these hypotheses would require that the piece under consideration would be an adulterated coin of the time, coined in the mint itself, and that the piece would have to contain little or almost no silver. This ought to have been detected by NGC or by any of the persons who reviewed this coin; furthermore collectors with any experience could see that the coin is of good silver. Alternatively the mint could have struck this piece in good silver after the die was recovered from Mr. Coronel, either for the record or simply by mistake.

3. The third hypothesis is based on a simple question: What relevant fact occurred in 1835 which could affect the design of that years coins?

3.1. On 13 August 1835 the second Ecuadorian Constitution was promulgated, abolishing the idea of the confederation with Colombia and changing the name “State of Ecuador in the Republic of Colombia” (abbreviated on the coins as “El Ecuador en Colombia”) to “República del Ecuador”. Therefore it is necessary to ascertain in which months the 1835 that the 2 reales were produced, since if all or part of them were made after 13 August there is reason to think that the date could have been corrected intentionally so that the design did not contradict what had been established by the new Constitution. In such a case it would be easier to correct the date than the name of the country. If this hypothesis were correct, this extremely rare specimen would indicate the intention to avoid the 1835 coinage being inconsistent with what had been approved by the Constitution on 13 August of that year.

3.2. Perhaps having had the intention of correcting the date, they tested the viability of a few specimens and in the end decided not to make the correction, leaving us this example which would become a witness to the political and constitutional changes in the country.

3.3. This event, the change of name to República del Ecuador, coincides with the exact year of the manufacture of this overstruck coin.

Probably we shall never know the real reason why and how it was done, but what is certain is that the piece has this unusual detail, which was verified by NGC on two occasions (in 2013 and 2017). Furthermore it was reviewed by persons with much experience of colonial and pre-decimal coins, such as Daniel Frank Sedwick, when he offered this piece at auction in 2013, describing it as the only one known up to that time, and both Dale Seppa and Michael Anderson, who had the opportunity to study this improbable overstrike.

Definitely it must be a very scarce coin. If any collector has a specimen with this type of overstrike (1834/5), report it (with photographs if possible) to info@srncoin.com to record its existence and for consideration in a future article.



**Holey Dollar, New South Wales
Morton & Eden Ltd.**



Australia, New South Wales, holey dollar, 1813, struck on a Charles IV 8 reales, 1806 TH, Mexico City mint; with clear, full and well-struck countermarks (type 1/A) on both sides, 21.08 g (Mira A/12 – 1/7). Host coin very fine with characteristic dishing caused by the striking process, countermarks good very fine, an attractive and evenly toned example which has been recently re-discovered in the U.K. Realized £82,000 before 20% buyer fee.

Provenance: Believed to have been acquired by Sir Gerald Strickland, 6th Count della Catena, 1st Baron Strickland of Sizergh, G.C.M.G. (1861-1940), probably during his tenure of office as Governor of New South Wales between 1913 and 1917. Born in Malta, Strickland inherited the title Count della Catena from his mother's uncle and, following an eventful and sometimes controversial career in the Colonial Service, he became an influential politician in both the U.K. and in Malta, where he was reportedly loved and disliked in roughly equal measure. Lord Strickland was also a coin collector who sold his ancient coins at Glendining's on 25-26 April 1939. The lot is offered with copied biographical details; see also lot 30 and front cover illustration. It is thought that this example of the holey dollar, which is offered by direct descent, has not previously been recorded.

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A Selection of Roman Aurei Numismatica Ars Classica, Zurich

Numismatica Ars Classica presented three auctions of ancient coins (Auction 99, Auction 100 and Auction 100 - part II) on May 29 & 30, 2017. From auction 99 “The George W. La Borde Collection of Roma Aurei (Part 2)” we reprint a few of the extraordinary specimens—*Editor*. Note: prices realized do not include 20% buyer fee and are in Swiss francs; exchange rate about USD 1.05/chf making final price in US dollar about 1.25 × the price realized in chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 3

Antonia, wife of Nero Claudius Drusus. Aureus circa 41-45, AV 7.79 g. ANTONIA – AVGVSTA Draped bust r., wearing crown of corn ears. Rev. SACERDOS — DIVI – AVGVSTI Two long torches, lighted and linked by ribbon. C 4. BMC Claudius 112. RIC Claudius 67. CBN Claudius 15. Calicó 319a. Very rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. Among the finest aurei of Antonia known. A very elegant portrait of fine style, good extremely fine. Provenance: Sold by Harlan J. Berk, Chicago, auction 102, 27 May 1998, lot 14. Privately purchased from Harlan J. Berk in May 2006.

All of the coins Claudius struck for his deceased mother Antonia honor her as Augusta, a status she shared only with Livia. We are told by Suetonius (Gaius 15) that Caligula compelled the senate to grant Antonia every honor possessed by Livia. However, the same historian (Claudius 11) tells us she refused what Caligula proposed and that only after her death was she hailed Augusta by Claudius (it is worth noting that an inscription from Corinth indicates she was hailed Augusta by Caligula). Antonia's portrait on the obverse of her two precious metal coinages represent her in the guise of Ceres (Demeter), for she wears a crown of grain ears. The reverse type of this aureus is inscribed SACERDOS DIVI AVGVSTI, and depicts two alight torches linked by a ribbon or garland. The inscription is a direct reference to Claudius—the issuer of the coin—as the priest of the cult of Divus Augustus. The meaning of the two torches is less clear. Perhaps they signify Livia and Antonia as the only two women, both deceased, who held the title Augusta. Alternatively, they may represent the rites of the Augustan priesthood, of which Antonia was named priestess under Caligula, and

Claudius since the accession of Tiberius. Equally likely is the possibility of the explanation involving the Ceres-Demeter connection already noted for the obverse. Demeter is usually depicted holding a torch, which illuminated her visits to the underworld. The worship of Ceres-Demeter in Rome involved annual celebrations (the Cerealia) and games (the Ludi Cereales). The cult was ancient and important, and was inextricably tied to the Eleusinian Mysteries. Claudius's interest in its occult rituals must have been deep since Suetonius (Claudius 25) tells us he tried to relocate the Eleusinian Mysteries from Attica to Rome. Price realized: 34,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 5

Galba, 68–69. Aureus July 68–January 69, AV 7.31 g. IMP SER GALBA CAESAR AVG Laureate head r. Rev. ROMA RENASC Roma, helmeted and in military attire, standing r., holding Victory on globe and transverse spear. C 199. RIC 198. BMC –. Calicó 491 (this coin illustrated). Extremely rare and in exceptional condition for the issue. A very appealing portrait perfectly struck and centred on a full flan and an interesting reverse composition. Good extremely fine. This coin is illustrated on the back cover of David R. Sear's, *Roman Coins and Their Value: Vol. I*. Provenance: Possibly from the Boscoreale hoard, found in 1894-1895. Caizergues de Pradines Collection, sold by Pio Ciani and Jean Vinchon, Versailles, 6-7 May 1955, lot 300. Sold for FF. 155,000. Athos D. Moretti Collection, sold anonymously by Numismatic Fine Arts, auction XXII, Beverly Hills, 1 June 1989, lot 36. Sold by Numismatic Fine Arts, auction XXX, Beverly Hills, 8 December 1992, lot 223. Alfred R. Globus (1920-2009) Collection, sold by Stack's, New York, 9-10 June 1998, lot 31. Michael L. J. Winckless Collection, sold privately by Spink & Son (London) in October 2006.

Of all Galba's coin types, this aureus, issued in Rome at the outset of his rebellion, offers perhaps the clearest statement of his intentions: Roma "renascens" ('Rome rising again' or 'Rome reborn'). The reign of Nero was in many ways a low-point in Roman history, and to men like Galba, who had benefited from their attachment to earlier Julio-Claudians, the time had come to restore traditional Roman ways. Though this type was used on singular occasions by Vitellius and Vespasian, it was used extensively by Galba both as Imperator and Augustus.

With faith in the more recent Julio-Claudians justifiably shaken, it was an appropriate message for the age. Galba proposed a return to the *severitas* of a bygone era that he promised to usher back. However noble his intentions, Galba was naïve to think that a reform of moral and social code might be achieved in short order, especially during a civil war. He removed incompetent men from their offices and was stern—even stingy—with the army. Tacitus reports he did not provide his soldiers even a “mere token act of generosity,” all of which assured his downfall only six months into his reign. Price realized: 160,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 11

Antoninus Pius, 138–161. Aureus 145-161, AV 7.17 g. ANTONINVS AVG – PIVS P P TR P COS IIII Laureate head l. Rev. Roma seated left holding palladium and spear; at side, shield. C 1148. BMC 591. RIC 159. Calicó 1457. A very elegant portrait and a finely detailed reverse composition. Almost invisible marks, otherwise good extremely fine. Provenance: V. J. E. Ryan (1882-1947) Collection (part IV), sold by Glendining's & Co., London, 20 March 1951, lot 1789. Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 2, 25 April 1972, lot 392. Götz Grabert (1924-2000) Collection, sold by LHS Numismatik, Zürich, auction 97 (A European Scholar lately deceased), 10 May 2006, lot 24. Price realized: 13,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 18

Commodus, sole reign 180–192. Aureus 187–188, AV 7.20 g. M COMM ANT P – FEL AVG BRIT Laureate and draped bust r. Rev. P M TR P XIII IMP VIII COS V P P Salus seated l., feeding snake coiled round altar; in exergue, SAL AVG. C –. BMC p. 735 note *. RIC –. Calicó 2322 (this reverse die). Extremely rare. A very interesting reverse composition, an absolutely insignificant mark on obverse field and edge and reverse from a slightly rusty die, otherwise extremely fine. Provenance: Sold by Triton, New York, auction XIII, 5–6 January 2010, lot 323. Price realized: 14,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 19

Crispina, wife of Commodus. Aureus 180–182, AV 7.28 g. CRISPINA – AVGUSTA Draped bust r., hair in coil at back. Rev. VENVS FELIX Venus seated l., holding Victory and sceptre; below seat, dove standing l. C 39. BMC 48. RIC Commodus 287. Calicó 2377c. Rare. A very elegant portrait, the work of a skilled master engraver. A perfect FDC.

Few Romans of high station in the government and the army could have felt secure during the reign of Commodus, a man whose cruel autocracy gave rise to plots against him, and whose suspicious mind is said to have invented plots when actual threats were absent.

The daughter of a nobleman who had campaigned alongside Marcus Aurelius against barbarians on the northern border of the empire, Crispina reportedly was an exceptionally beautiful woman, a fact which the portrait on this coin supports. She was married to the fifteen-year-old future emperor Commodus, but as he steadily became more paranoid and megalomaniacal, their relationship disintegrated, and they both partook in extramarital affairs. In 182 Crispina was banished to the island of Capri where she met her end by strangulation, presumably on the orders of her husband. The official reason given for her severe treatment was her adulterous activities, but more than likely it was because she, along with her sister-in-law Lucilla, was implicated in a failed plot to assassinate Commodus. Price realized: 105,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 25

Elagabalus, 218–222. Aureus 220, AV 6.70 g. IMP ANTONINVS PIVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., with drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. CONSERVATOR AVG Slow quadriga l., on which is the Stone of Emesa surmounted by eagle; in upper field l., star. C 16. BMC 198 and pl. 88, 19 (this obverse die). RIC 61. Mazzini 16 (this coin). Calicó 2987a (these dies). Extremely rare and among the finest specimens known of this interesting and fascinating issue. A very appealing portrait perfectly struck in high relief, good extremely fine. Provenance: Comm. Enrico Caruso (1873-1921) Collection, sold by C. & E. Canessa, Naples, auction 28 June 1923, lot 464. Ing. Giuseppe Mazzini (1883-1961) Collection. Ferruccio Bolla (1911-1984) Collection, sold by Anton Tkalec AG and Astarte SA, Zürich, 28 February 2007, lot 72.

Few emperors are known almost exclusively for their peculiarities and perversions, but on the short list of qualified applicants, Elagabalus rises to the top. The 19th Century antiquarian S.W. Stevenson, ever a delight for his artfully delivered comments, did not fail to deliver in his summary of Elagabalus whom he called : “...the most cruel and infamous wretch that ever disgraced humanity and polluted a throne...” Elagabalus and

his family had lived in Rome during the reign of Caracalla, who was rumored to have been Elagabalus' natural father. When Caracalla was murdered, his prefect and successor, Macrinus, recalled the family to their homeland of Syria. Upon arriving, Elagabalus assumed his role as hereditary priest of the Emesan sun-god Heliogabalus. For the Roman soldiers in the vicinity, who engaged in the common practice of solar worship, and who had fond memories of the slain Caracalla, Elagabalus was an ideal candidate for emperor. He soon was hailed emperor against Macrinus, who was defeated in a pitched battle just outside Antioch. Conservative Rome was introduced to their new emperor's eccentricities and religious fervor when they learned of his overland journey from Emesa to Rome, with a sacred meteorite in tow. The journey, which consumed a year or more, in this collection is depicted on one aureus which shows the sacred conical stone of Emesa - in all likelihood a meteorite - being transported in a chariot drawn by four horses. The stone usually is emblazoned with an eagle, which on the Rome piece is uncommonly bold. Price realized: 44,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 30

Gallienus, joint reign with Valerian I, 253–260. Aureus 255-256, AV 2.05 g. IMP C P LIC GALLIENVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r. Rev. VIRT – VS – AVGG Mars striding r., holding spear and trophy. C 1271 var. (laureate, draped and different obverse legend). RIC 102 var. (different obverse legend). Göbl 84m and pl. 13 (this coin illustrated). Calicó 3648 (this coin). Very rare. A wonderful portrait of fine style, virtually as struck and almost FDC. This coin published in Hyman Montagu (†), “Rare and Unpublished Roman Gold Coins in my Collection”, in *The Numismatic Chronicle and Journal of the Numismatic Society*, vol. 3-XVII (1897), pp. 35-89, no. 129. Karl Menadier, “Die Münzen und das Münzwesen bei den Scriptoribus Historia Augustae, Exkurs, Die Goldprägung der valerianisch-gallienischen Zeit”, in *Zeitschrift für Numismatik*, vol. 31 (1914), pp. 60-144, no. 210. Provenance: Hyman Montagu (born Hyman Moses) Collection, sold by Rollin & Feuarent, Paris, auction 20-28 April 1896, lot. 620. Sold by J. Hirsch, Munich, auction XXXIV, 5 May 1914 sqq., lot 1469. V. M. Brand (1861-1926) Collection, (part I) sold by Sotheby's, Zürich, 1st July 1982, lot 47. McLendon (1921-1986). Collection, sold by Christie's New York, auction 12 June 1993, lot 185. Sold by Meister & Sonntag, Stuttgart, auction 2, 20

September 2004, lot 1196. Sold by Gemini LLC with Heritage Galleries, Chicago, auction VIII, 14 April 2011, lot 418. Price realized: 14,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 32

Aurelian, 270–275. Aureus, Cyzicus early 272, AV 4.84 g. AVRELIAN – VS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., with slight drapery on l. shoulder. Rev. P M TR P COS P – P Radiate lion leaping l., holding thunderbolt in its jaws. C –. RIC 159 (Siscia). Göbl Aurelianus, 129An2 and pl. 75 (Roma, this reverse die). CBN p. 416 and pl. 85, 259 (this reverse die). Calicó 4022 (this coin). Extremely rare and possibly the finest specimen known. An important and interesting issue with a spectacular reverse type. Virtually as struck and almost FDC. Provenance: Sold by Anton Tkalec AG, Zürich, auction 19 February 2001, lot 357 (reverse illustrated on the catalog front cover). Sold by Numismatica Genevensis SA, Geneva, auction 4, 11 December 2006, lot 219.

This magnificent aureus was struck in AD 271-272 in relation to Aurelian's war to win back the eastern provinces of the Empire that had fallen under the sway of Palmyra and its queen, Zenobia. The East had long been a source of political and military problems in the third century thanks to the ever present neighboring Sasanian Empire of Persia, but a new and acute crisis began in AD 270, when the Palmyrene queen took control of the eastern Roman provinces and even seized Egypt, the breadbasket of Rome. Zenobia began to cut the grain supply to the imperial capital, leaving Aurelian with little choice but to mount a campaign against Zenobia's so-called Palmyrene Empire.

Aurelian reconquered most of Asia Minor with ease, but the cities of Byzantium and Tyana still held out for Zenobia. Normally this obstinacy would have guaranteed the destruction of the cities — the Roman emperor was not in the habit of accepting opposition — but during the siege of Tyana, Aurelian had a vision of the first century AD philosopher and miracle-worker, Apollonius of Tyana. In the vision, Apollonius warned him to abstain from the blood of innocents if he wished to rule and further advised that he could better conquer through mercy. The emperor heeded this advice and spared Tyana. When other cities that remained in Palmyrene hands realized that they would not be punished for going over to Zenobia the majority surrendered to Aurelian's authority. Within six months, the emperor had recovered the East and had Zenobia cornered in Palmyra. She attempted to flee, but was captured and brought back

to Rome where she walked in Aurelian's triumphal procession bound with golden chains.

The composite reverse type depicting a radiate lion carrying the thunderbolt of Jupiter had become an established emblem of grand eastern campaigns by the time of Aurelian. This is a little ironic since it was first used by Caracalla in AD 216 to advertise his campaign against the Parthian Empire, which actually ended with his assassination by one of his own soldiers and a humiliating peace settlement made by his successor, Macrinus. Nevertheless, the peculiar type had an appeal, and was reused by Philip I, Philip II, and Gallienus in the context of their own eastern wars before Aurelian took it up, and even lived on after Aurelian to be employed on coins of Probus as well. Price realized: 67,500 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 33

Tetricus I, 271–274. Aureus, Cologne or Treveri 272, AV 4.79 g. IMP C TETRICVS P F AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust r., with drapery on far shoulder. Rev. P M TR P II C – OS P P Tetricus standing r., in military dress, holding globe and spear. C 128 var. RIC 5. Schulte 29a. Biaggi 1553 (this coin). S. Sondermann, “*Neue Aurei, Quinare und Abschlge der gallischen Kaiser von Postumus bis Tetricus*”, Bonn 2010, p. 174, no. 4.1 (this coin illustrated). Calic 3887 (this coin). Extremely rare. A wonderful portrait of excellent style, good extremely fine. Provenance: Sold by Emile Bourgey, Paris, auction 25 May 1950, lot 167. Sold for FF. 230,000. Leo Biaggi de Blasys (1906-1979) Collection, acquired privately in 1978 by Bank Leu (Zrich) and a partner. Sold by Numismatica Ars Classica, Zurich, auction 33, 6 April 2006, lot 571.

Following the sudden and unexpected murder of Victorinus—a valiant emperor who preserved the Romano-Gallic Empire from disintegration—the political scenario in the western provinces became precarious. Stepping into the void, if we believe the notoriously unreliable *Historia Augusta*, was Victoria, mother of the slain Victorinus. Through various means she was able to have Tetricus I, who probably was her grandson, hailed emperor at Bordeaux in 271. The once strong and independent empire founded more than a decade ago by Postumus began to split at the seams under Tetricus, who associated his eponymous son with his regime. In 272 the mighty emperor Aurelian returned to Europe after having just brought a much stronger

separatist empire in Palmyra to its knees. He then set his sights on recovering the western provinces. Finally, in the spring of 274, the armies of Aurelian and Tetricus met at Châlons-sur-Marne, where the central armies defeated the Gallic legions and the separatist empire was absorbed back into the central empire. Historians have questioned if the battle was legitimate or merely orchestrated based upon an earlier covert agreement by Tetricus to surrender. Afterwards, Tetricus was treated with great honor by Aurelian, who restored his family's senatorial status and appointed him governor of Lucania, where he is said to have lived to an advanced age. Price realized: 130,000 chf.



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG, Auction 99, lot 36

Probus, 276–282. Aureus, Lugdunum Summer 281, AV 6.27 g. IMP C M AVR PROBVS AVG Laureate and cuirassed bust l. Rev. VICTO – RIA PROBI AVG Victory advancing r., holding wreath and palm branch; to r., trophy at base of which two seated captives. C 799 (misdescribed). RIC 11. Bastien, Lyon 302c (this coin). Calicó 4221 (these dies). Extremely rare, only four specimens known and one of two in private hands. A superb portrait and a very interesting reverse type. Virtually as struck and almost FDC. Provenance: Sold by Bank Leu, Zürich, auction 13, 29-30 April 1975, lot 487. Claude Vaudecrane (1915-2002) Collection, sold by Leu Numismatik, Zürich, auction 93 (A Perfectionist), 10 May 2005, lot 108.

The victory celebrated by the reverse type of this aureus is thought to be that of Probus over the joint usurpers Proculus and Bonosus in AD 281. Their imperial reign only began the year before when the ambitious military tribune, Proculus, was invited to claim the imperial purple by the people of Lugdunum during a civic revolt against Probus. He was joined in his usurpation by Bonosus who had been in command of the Rhine fleet when it was burned by the Alemanni. Fearing punishment for this disaster, Bonosus avoided trouble simply by elevating himself to the status of emperor. If only all problems could be solved so easily.

When Probus returned from his war against the Sasanian Persian Empire, he marched against the two pretenders. Probus defeated the forces of Bonosus, who immediately hanged himself to avoid capture. Proculus could not withstand the advance of the avenging emperor either and sought aid from the Germanic Franks. He was gravely

disappointed when instead of receiving military assistance he was betrayed into the hands of Probus. Proculus was no doubt disappointed even further when Probus ordered his execution. Much to Probus' credit, however, he did not seize Proculus' considerable personal fortune, nor did he exact any vengeance upon the families of Proculus or Bonosus. The sins of the fathers were paid for and there was no need to visit punishment on their sons as well.

Considering the historical context for the issue, it is hard to escape the possibility that the captives seated beneath the trophy might have been intended to represent the defeated usurpers themselves (although Bonosus was not actually captured alive). On the other hand, the captives might just stand for generic rebel soldiers who had fought for the usurpers against Probus. Price realized: 40,000 chf.

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Ferdinand VII Military Entry Token for Puerto Rico
Heritage Rare Coins



Spanish Colony (Puerto Rico), Ferdinand VII of Spain copper Military Entry Token ND (1808-1821) XF, Eklund-2507. Diameter of 35 mm. with 15 mm. center hole. Sharply struck XF example and rare. Ex-Roehrs Collection with original ticket enclosed. Ex- Daniel Frank Sedwick auction 14, lot 1031 [mass listed 18.06 g]. Realized USD 223.25.

Heritage Auctions, Inc., Auction 3053, January 17-18, 2017 | Chicago. Lot # 38034. Courtesy Heritage Auctions, ha.com.



Roman Aureus of Licinius
Numismatica Ars Classica, Zurich



Numismatica Ars Classica NAC AG
Auction 102, 24-Oct-2017, lot 577

Aureus, Antiochia 321–322, AV 5.27 g. DN VAL LICIN LICINIVS NOB C Draped and cuirassed bust facing. Rev. IOVI CONSER – VATORI CAES Jupiter seated facing enthroned on platform, holding Victory on globe in r. hand and scepter in l.; in l. field, eagle with wreath in beak and in r. field, star. The platform inscribed SIC·V· / SIC·X·. In exergue, ·SMANE. C –, cf. 28. RIC 33. Alföldi 252 var. (without star). Depeyrot 38/2. Kent-Hirmer pl. 158, 623. Calicó 5153. Very rare and in exceptional condition. A magnificent portrait perfectly struck and centered on a full flan. Virtually as struck and almost FDC. Ex NAC sale 52, 2009, 602.

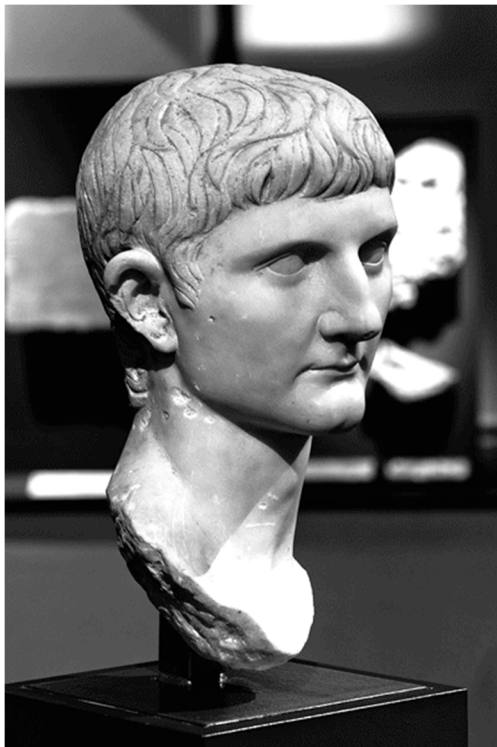
The facing portrait on Roman coins was an extremely rare occurrence until the reign of Constantius II, who eventually adopted the form as his standard obverse type at eastern mints. However, the form he used was simplistic in comparison to earlier attempts: the face of the emperor was small and inarticulate, with the true impact of the design being derived from the form and the ornamentation of the armored, helmeted bust, which could be easily replicated on a large scale. In contrast, this aureus of Licinius represents an impressive attempt to capture the spirit of the emperor as an individual, not merely as a universal being. Four important issues of gold with facing busts were produced from c. 310 to c. 321. The first was by Maxentius on aurei of c. 310–312, and the second by Constantine on solidi of 316; the former was shown bare-headed and bearded, in the guise of a model Tetrarch, the latter was shown nimbate and clean-shaven, as a reflection of his unique brand of monotheism, which embraced solar worship and the Christian faith. Similarities in the style of the two issues make it possible that both were the work of the same artist, who initially worked for Maxentius, and who remained in Italy after Constantine's takeover and produced a facing-head for his new master. Following these two coinages are the solidi of c. 321 struck for Licinius I and Licinius II, and we should not doubt that they were inspired by one or both of the predecessor issues. The Licinian solidi mark a special event, the taking of imperial vows. The statue of Jupiter rests upon a monumental base inscribed SIC V SIC X, a substitute for the usual votum, in which Licinius II gives thanks for five years of rulership and demonstrates a desire to reign for ten. Equally worthy of comment is the reverse type, on which Jupiter makes one of his last appearances on Roman coinage. This can be seen as evidence of the simmering hostilities between Constantine and Licinius, who not only were co-emperors, but were brothers-in-law. Their rivalry increasingly took on a religious tone, with Constantine now favouring Christianity and Licinius embracing the supreme pagan god – partly because of his own beliefs, partly in opposition to Constantine. Licinius had initially adopted religious ambiguity in 313 as a token of good faith toward Constantine, who early in that year had issued the 'Edict of Milan' in both of their names. Here that position is rejected: the inscription describes Jupiter as the protector of Licinius, and the god is represented by an especially powerful and ancient image, seemingly derived from Phidias' famous gold and ivory statue in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.

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Germanicus's Triumphal Entry in the Year 17 Dix Noonan Webb



Germanicus, dupondius, restitution issue under Gaius (Caligula), Rome, c. 37-41, Germanicus standing in slow quadriga right, GERMANICVS CAESAR, rev. SIGNIS RECEPTIS DEVICTIS GERMANICVS, Germanicus, bare-headed and cuirassed with tunic, standing left with right arm raised and holding aquila, S C in field, 15.22 g (RIC Gaius 57; BMC 94; C 7; Sear 1820). Better than very fine, glossy dark patina; Provenance: E. A. Sydenham Collection, Glendining Auction, 10 December 1941, lot 22 (part). Realized 1,800 GBP before buyer fee.



Germanicus's military campaigns in Germania (14-16) made him famous for avenging the defeat of the Battle of Teutoburg Forest (AD 9) and retrieving two of the three legionary eagles which had been lost. This type commemorates the triumph held in Rome on 26 May 17 celebrating these victories. [Making 2017 the bimillenary—*Ed.*]

Dix Noonan Webb, Auction Sale, 15 February 2017, lot 9.

Bust of Germanicus in Musée Saint-Raymond in Toulouse, France. Image by Pierre Selim and placed in the public domain available on internet at Wikipedia.

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MSR_-_Germanicus_Inv._30010.jpg

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Book News and Reviews

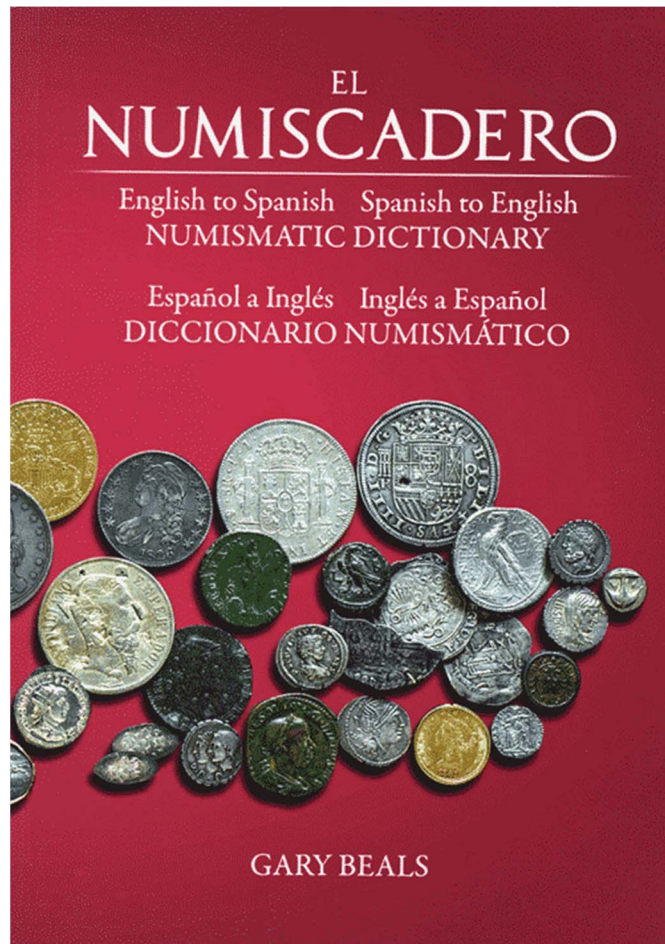
El Numiscadero by Gary Beals. *El Numiscadero – English to Spanish – Spanish to English Numismatic Dictionary*, (privately printed), Segovia, Spain, and San Diego, CA, 2016, (4), 354 (1) pp., illustr. ISBN 978-0-86549-950-8.

This magnificent, richly illustrated octavo-sized work is the vastly expanded second edition of Gary Beals' first efforts in this direction, his *Numismatic Terms of Spain and Spanish America*, first published in early 1966. The dictionary presents a significant compendium of the language of numismatics in both English and Spanish, and is a must for anybody who collects, deals in or researches the coins of Latin America or Spain. A detailed foreword and introduction describe how to use the book.

El Numiscadero also contains several useful lists that have an impact on numismatics, such as on the monarchs of Great Britain and Spain, Roman emperors, popes, Spanish mint officials and their functions, coin and medal shapes, numismatic associations and other topics. Hundreds of words are defined, in alphabetical order of course, including many commonly used abbreviations and slang terms. It is a highly useful work, both for the scholarly researcher and translator as well as for the casual collector who might ask “*qué es un slab?*” I used it extensively for my last project, which was a translation of Jorge Proctor's lengthy treatise on the billon coinage of colonial Spanish America, recently published in the NI Bulletin.

You will of course find terms such as “*vellón rico*” (billon with a higher silver content, but still under 10%) and other seemingly more mundane terms such as “*cuño*” which, however, are possessed of great subtlety in that their meaning depends entirely upon context. *Cuño* in Spanish can mean a coining die (*troquel*) or an anvil die set in a stump with its matching hammer die (a pile) or even an entire mint!

Now, as with any work of this nature, it is necessarily never entirely complete, and Mr. Beals encourages readers to send in terms or additional definitions that he might have overlooked. One such term is “*visitor*”, which is rare in the English language, being absent from most English dictionaries, although it is of course to be found in the Oxford English Dictionary. Also, if I have to quibble and find fault with something in order to make this a balanced review, the only things I might point out are that the font is a



touch too small (for my old eyes), the illustrations are not of very high resolution and the heavy card covers with flaps in a perfect binding may be a trifle fragile for an oft-consulted book. Nevertheless, this allows the book to stay octavo-sized and be carried easily, store on any shelf and not break the bank when you buy it, which I believe you should do at your earliest opportunity, as only 1,000 copies were printed.

Cost is \$25 plus \$3 shipping within USA; send Gary a check at address below. Books will be shipped from San Diego, CA. For purchasers in Europe, the books will be shipped from Segovia, Spain. Gary adds the following important note: "PayPal does not work internationally since I am in Spain and my CitiBank is in USA." Instead, for European buyers, contact him and he will supply Bankia transfer information for payment. Contact Gary at: segovia.gary@yahoo.com

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PS: In case you were still wondering what a "*visitator*" is, it is a judge, prosecutor or minister of the law, charged with a mission of inspection and audit, in representation of the higher authority that sent him; this envoy frequently came with plenipotentiary powers to exercise justice and impose the rule of law, with immunity from prosecution by the local authorities; he most often was sent by the authorities in Spain to the colonies, or by the viceroy to the provinces, to investigate matters where suspicion existed that the royal interest or authority were being harmed or injured, empowering the *visitator* to correct the situation and castigate those guilty of the misdeeds. The *visitator's* mission or visit of inspection may be referred to as a visitation.

The term *visitator* was more commonly used in the 18th Century (as was its Spanish equivalent "*visitador*"), although the latter is more common in modern Spanish than its counterpart is in modern English. For a good example of modern usage of the term *visitator* in the English language, see Peter Bakewell's *Silver and Entrepreneurship in Seventeenth-Century Potosí: The Life and Times of Antonio López de Quiroga*, University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, 1988, pp. 39, 42, et. al.

Reviewed by Alan Luedeking